

# **South Precinct Email Community Newsletter**

March 20, 2007



Dear Community Friends,

## **Home Invasion Robberies Update**

As you are well aware, we've experienced a series of home invasion robberies in the past few months. The first one that came to our attention was the one that occurred in the Mount Baker neighborhood in late January 2007. There were also home invasion robberies in the Lakeridge area and South Beacon Hill. The good news: two suspects have been arrested and charged, and a third suspect has been identified and is currently being sought.

Eyewitness accounts from the victims of these crimes proved critical to placing these individuals at the crime scenes. South Precinct detectives were able to get identification from a photomontage, get the suspect information out to officers, and within hours of the warrant being released, SWAT officers arrested the first suspect.

Working with Bellevue PD (who identified one of the three suspects as being involved in a kidnapping, burglary and assault), and King County detectives, the second suspect was identified. He was located at a Renton pawnshop as he tried to unload property identified as stolen in the home invasion robberies. When this suspect was arrested, he had property on him from the Mount Baker home invasion robbery. When a warrant was served where this suspect was residing, additional property from the Mount Baker, Lakeridge and South Beacon Hill home invasion robberies was recovered.

The third suspect was eventually identified and a \$500,000 warrant was issued for his arrest. This suspect seems to have "gone to ground", but it's only a matter of time before he is found, arrested and charged. After all, his name and photo are all over the news and every law enforcement agency and informant is out looking for the guy.

These arrests and eyewitnesses who picked the suspects out of a line-up have helped detectives close cases in multiple jurisdictions dating back to November 2006. These include the Bellevue case mentioned above, a West Seattle burglary, the Mount Baker, Lakeridge and South Beacon Hill home invasions robberies, and other home invasion robberies in South and West Seattle.

Many have expressed frustration, anger and fear about these robberies. We understand. There was a lot of frustration and anger about how police were responding to these crimes. Again, we understand. There are a couple of take-aways from these events that need to be highlighted.

- 1) Home invasion robberies are scary. Fortunately, they are very rare. It is the type of crime we fear the most, but one that happens the least.
- 2) Police *will* respond to the 911 call, they *will* collect evidence, the detectives *will* follow-up on the evidence and investigate to the best of their ability, and they *will* beat the bushes to close cases, using every resource they have.
- 3) Eyewitness information, and the willingness of witnesses and victims to come forward, were essential to getting the suspects identified, arrested and charged. If not for those people who were able to pick the suspects out of a photomontage, we would not have had any probable cause to arrest or charge *any* of these individuals with *any* crime.

These incidents stress how important it is that crimes are reported, even if an officer is not able to respond immediately. They also stress the importance paying attention to what is happening in your neighborhood so you can point out to police that which is out of the ordinary, and of people's willingness to make a statement about the crime and identify those involved. Police don't solve crimes alone. They don't catch criminals alone. Police strive to do their best. But it can't be done without you. The arrests of these home invasion robbery suspects are further proof of that. We scored a win, and while it was the detectives that did the grunt work to make it happen, it is you that facilitated that win.

Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe!

Mark Solomon, South Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator